III. *An Observation of an Infant, where the Brain was depressed into the hollow of the Vertebræ of the Neck: By Dr.* Edward Tyson, *Fellow of the College of Physitians, and* R. S.

ABout Years ago I was desired with Mr. *Layfield* a Chyrurgeon to see a Birth in the Neighbourhood, which was reported to be very Monstrous and Surprising: When I came I found it far different from the Report Good Women first gave of it; But what I thought very extraordinary, and much like the Instance lately given in the Philosophical Transactions, N° 226, for the Month of *March*, 1697. In my Description of it, I can't be circumstantial in all particulars as I would, not having the Notes by me I then took, they being at present misplaced; and indeed I had not an opportunity of fully satisfying my self, the Child being to be Buried presently. Yet what I chiefly design to remark, was so obvious that I can't mistake in the account of it.

As first the Midwife informed me, that she was very sensible that the Child was alive, and that it died in the Birth, or a little before. When I observed it, I found it well grown; all the Limbs and Body well Proportioned and Plump; the Face well featured, only from the Eye-brows; the Scull was perfectly depressed down to the *Os Sphænoides*, or *Basis* of the *Calvaria*; so that it had no Forehead at all.

I opened the *Cranium* in several places, before I could find any Brain at all; the *Cranium* being every where so depressed and touching the *Calvaria*; but at length

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I obſerved near the paſſing out of the *Medulla Oblongata*, to the *Medulla Spinalis*, a ſmall quantity of the Brain; the whole might be included in a Walnut-ſhell. 'Twas covered over with a bloody Matter: At preſent I do not well remember whether I did diſtinguiſh the *Cinericeous* and *Medullary* Subſtances here; but thruſting down my little Finger thro' the *Foramen* where the *Medulla Spinalis* paſſes; I obſerved a very large Cavity in the hollow of the *Vertebræ* of the Neck, ſo that I could turn my Finger round a good compaſs there; which eaſily made me to conclude, that the Brain muſt be preſſed down hither; which I was the more induced to believe, becauſe the Mother informed me, that when ſhe was with Child, ſhe received a conſiderable bruiſe in her Belly: I had no opportunity of making more particular Remarks, becauſe, as I ſaid, the Child was to be preſently Buried, and what we did was in the ſame Room where the other was; otherwiſe I ſhould have endeavoured to have traced the Nerves, and by opening the *Vertebræ* of the Neck to obſerve what diſtinctions of parts of the Brain I could have diſcovered there. For this large Cavity of the *Vertebræ*, I found to be filled with a Subſtance like the Brain or *Medulla Spinalis*, or both. But far larger than the *Medulla Spinalis* its ſelf could be in ſo ſmall an Infant.

And how far the *Medulla Spinalis* may anſwer the Office of the Brain eſpecially in the Embrio's, where there is no Exerciſe of the Senſes, nor the Imaginative Faculty, will be no great difficulty to apprehend; ſince for the Functions of Life in them, the Spirits generated even in the *Medulla Spinalis* (for it has a Glandulous Subſtance too, but inwards) may ſuffice. Eſpecially in this Inſtance where I do ſuppoſe a great part of the Brain to be detruded (by the bruiſe the Mother

ther received) into the hollow of the *Vertebræ*: and do Quære, whether in thoſe Inſtances that are given of Births of Infants without Brains, there might not be the like Accident of the Brain, or the Principal Parts of it being depreſſed into the *Vertebræ*; which in Embrio's, (before hardned into Bones) are Parts extendible. But the Brain being confined in ſo narrow an encloſure, it ſtints its growth and enlargement; yet may be ſufficient to ſupply Spirits for the maintaining thoſe Offices of Life the *Fætus* enjoys, before the Birth whilſt in the Womb.

But ſomewhat to confirm theſe Inſtances given in the ſame Tranſaction, of Life continuing after the loſs of a great part of the Brain, I ſhall add this following Obſervation.

IV. *An Obſervation of one Hemiſphere of the Brain ſphacelated, and of a Stone found in the ſubſtance of the Brain its ſelf*: By Edward Tyſon, *Fellow of the College of Phyſitians and* R. S.

Decemb. 12, 1688. I was deſired to be preſent at the opening of Mr. *A.* About Two Months before (as I was informed) he had received in a Quarrel at the Tavern a great bruiſe on his Head by a Quart Pot. But for the preſent neglected the uſe of means, till at laſt he was forced to betake himſelf to his Bed. Dr. *Morton* was ſent for. He found him to complain of a moſt violent pain in his Head. He ſometimes Vomited,